A VINDICATION OF Jesus Christ,

The Immaculate Lamb of God,

From the Foul and Blasphemous Imputation of one *Thomas Powel* a Preacher amongst the *Independents*, who affirmed, *That Jesus Christ was the Greatest Sinner in the World.*

With an Answer to a Paper put forth by him, entituled, *A Word to the Wise is enough.*

Also, A Warning to him, that he persist nor abide no longer in Lying and making Lyes his Refuge, lest the Wrath of God break forth upon him, and there be no Remedy.

By JONH VAUGHTON,
in Scorn called a Quaker.

We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, 1 John 2. 1. —— *How much more shall the Blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered himself without Spot to God, purge your Consciences from dead Works, to serve the living God,* Hebr. 9. 14. —— *For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the Feeling of our Infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet* Without Sin, Hebr. 4. 15.

Printed in the Year, 1676.

Friendly Reader,

THe Reason why this Discourse was published, is to give thee a true Account upon what Occasion Thomas Powell affirmed, That Jesus Christ was the greatest Sinner in the World; and may serve for the stopping of the many Lyes that he hath told about it.

J. V.

Something of a Diſcourſe that paſt between one Thomas Powell, *who calls himſelf* a Miniſter of the Goſpel; & John Vaughton, *who by many in ſcorn is called a* Quaker; *the 29th of the 2d Moneth called* April, 1676.

T. Powel, YOu Quakers *hold Damnable and Erroneous Doctrine.*

John Vaughton. What Doctrine is that we hold that is Erroneous or Damnable?

T. P. *You hold Perfection.*

J. V. We ſay, that God is perfect, and his Works are all perfect.

T. P. *There are none perfect who are not free from Temptation.*

J. V. Chriſt Jeſus was tempted, was not he perfect?

T. P. *He was the Greateſt Sinner in the World.*

J. V. Who was the Greateſt Sinner in the World?

T. P. *Chriſt Jeſus was the Greateſt Sinner in the World.*

J. V. Wilt thou give me that under thy Hand?

T. P. *Yes* [and then he writ theſe words, *Chriſt Jeſus was the Greateſt Sinner in the World, I* Thomas Powell *Miniſter of the Goſpel affirms.*]

J. V. I deny thee to be a Goſpel-Miniſter; for the Goſpel-Miniſters never preached that Doctrine; for the Apoſtle ſaid, *He did no Sin, neither was Guile found in his Mouth*; and the Apoſtle *John* ſaid, *We have an Advocate with the Father, Jeſus Chriſt, the Righteous*; he did not ſay, Jeſus Chriſt was the Greateſt Sinner

in the World. And I do teſtifie in the Name of God, who is pure forever, thou art an Enemy to Chriſt Jeſus; for he was and is pure forever: and bleſſed be the Name of the Lord, who hath brought a Remnant to the Knowledge of him: and we know, that every Manifeſtation of him and Appearance of him is pure, and he ſtands a Witneſs againſt all that's impure and unholy: And therefore I do ſay unto thee in the Fear of God, That thou art an Enemy to Chriſt Jeſus, and art a Miniſter of the Power of Darkneſs, and art in the ſame ſpirit as were thoſe Hypocritical *Jews*, who, when the Man that was born blind was brought unto them (after Chriſt had opened his Eyes) they ſaid unto him that was born blind, *who opened thy Eyes?* and he ſaid, *Jeſus*: but ſaid thoſe Hypocrites to the Man, *Give God the Glory, for this man is a Sinner.* But thou haſt exceeded them; they ſaid, *he was a Sinner*; and thou ſayeſt, *he was the greateſt Sinner in the World*: But the Man who had his Eyes opened by him ſaid, *God hears not Sinners.* But God the Father ever heard his Son Chriſt Jeſus; for he did alwayes thoſe things that were well-pleaſing in his Sight.

Note, That when I had given this Teſtimony *T.P.* in an *Iſhmaelite* ſpirit vaunted & ſaid as followeth.

T.P. *I have ſpoken a Theſis, and you are a ſilly ignorant People, and do not underſtand Divinity.*

J. W. I am a Plain Man, and do ſpeak as I think, and as I certainly know, through a good Experience, that Chriſt Jeſus is holy and pure forever, and I have no Unity with thy Theſis; and this is my Teſtimo-

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ny unto thee, Thou art ignorant of the Divine and Heavenly Power of God, which is Christ Jesus, who is holy and pure forever; and thou hast said, *He was the greatest Sinner in the World:* Oh! stop thy Mouth for Shame; for this is my Testimony, God will dry up the Tongue of the *Egyptian* Sea.

T. P. *What, do you own Revelation in these dayes?*

J. V. Yes, we do own Revelation in these dayes.

T. P. *Then burn the Bible; for if there be Revelation in these our dayes, there is no need of the Scriptures; but there is no Revelation in these dayes.*

J. V. Then there is no Knowledge of God; for Christ Jesus hath said, *No man knows the Father, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.*

T. P. *You* Quakers *do own Vision too, do you not?*

J. V. Yes, we do own Vision; for, *where there is no Vision, the People perish*; for Vision is a Sight or Seeing, and the pure in Heart sees God; but thou art not in that which is pure, who hast charged Christ Jesus to be the *Greatest Sinner in the World.*

Then a Young Man of *T. P*'s Hearers asked this Question, *Seeing you are but a People of about Twenty Five Years standing, and you say, that your Way is the Right Way, What became of the people that dyed before you were a People?*

Thomas Powell takes upon him to answer it in the Name of the *Quakers* thus, *They* (said he) *believe that they are all damned.*

[Mark] So great was his Envy & Malice unto the despised and reproached *Quakers*, and so wicked is he, to endeavour to insense his Hearer with this his Lye and

and Slander againſt them, notwithſtanding I gave this Anſwer in the name of my Friends, whom *T. P.* had thus belyed, as our teſtimony that we did believe according to the teſtimony of Holy Scriptures, that in every Age and Generation he that feared God and wrought Righteouſneſs was accepted of him: But he ſtill did ſay, and that in a laughing, light and airy manner, *That we did believe that they were all damned*; thus did he perſiſt in his Belying & Slandering of us; ſuch was the Power of Darkneſs in this Miniſter of the Goſpel, as he calls himſelf, that we muſt believe (or at leaſt he would) if he could make us believe as he had ſaid, notwithſtanding I gave our Teſtimony to the contrary.

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Something in Answer to T. P's *Paper, intituled,* A Word to the Wise is enough. *With a few words as a Warning to him, that he no longer persist in Lying.*

Tho. *Powell* having spoken these words, and given them under his Hand the 29th 2d Mon. 1676. viz. *Jesus Christ was the Greatest Sinner in the World, I* Thomas Powel *Minister of the Gospel affirms*; which *Affirmation* of T. P's was immediately denyed, and he born Testimony against, for this his Blasphemous Expression; and two dayes after I did desire him to condemn his words, but he refused it, and said, *Shall I condemn that which I can prove, and most Divines of our Way hold? and you are Wretches and damned if you do not believe it.* Then it was laid upon me from the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, to go to the Meetings where *T. Powell* did preach, and give my Testimony to the purity of Christ Jesus; and also it was with me, to give the People some Papers, with *T. P's* own words inserted in them, with Directions to those that questioned the Truth of it, where they might see the Original under his own hand; which thing was not done in a spirit of Prejudice, or with a Design to asperse or cast a Calumny upon *T. Powell* who terms himself *Preacher of the Gospel*, as he falsly insinuates: But to manifest and to make it appear, that he is not what he intitleth himself to be, inasmuch as he would not own Jesus Christ to be perfect, as in the Discourse doth plainly appear; but on the contrary, affirms him to be the greatest Sinner in the World: But *T. P.* perceiving the Dissatisfaction of some, and being not able to stand by his Affirmation, about three Moneths after put forth a printed Paper, and intitles it, *A Word to the Wise is enough*, and sayes, *He thought it convenient to give the World this satisfaction, that though these words, Jesus Christ was the Greatest Sinner in the World, were given under his hand to* John Vaughton Quaker, *yet that was his Sense, and is his Sense still, viz. by Imputation, and was repeated by him several*

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times, *even before and after he had writ those Words.* Now *Tho. Bye* hath since this Paper was published, declared in the presence of several Persons, that *T. P.* did not speak nor mention the Word Imputation before he writ those Words, so that the World may see, that he hath abused his Witness. And for his saying, *The Quakers no Christians still made good*, is another of his Lies, and the contrary doth appear, not only in Word and Doctrine, but in the Lives and Conversations of those who are faithful to the *Quakers* Principle, the Light of Christ Jesus manifested in them, whose Light is the Condemnation of the Evil doer, and the Evil-doer cannot escape the Condemnation of it.

But *Tho. Powel* having now in print declared that he meant by Imputation, then we must read his VVords thus, *I* Thomas Powel *Minister of the Gospel, affirms Jesus Christ was the greatest Sinner in the World —— by Imputation.* Now *T. P.* with the rest of the Divines of thy VVay, give us plain Scripture that saith, Jesus Christ was (by *Peter*, *Paul*, or any of the Ministers of the Gospel) affirmed to be the greatest SINNER in the VVorld by Imputation, and give us plain Scripture that saith, he took the Guilt of our Sins upon him; for though it is said, *Isa.* 53. 6. *That he laid upon him the Iniquity of us all*, or as the Hebrew VVord hath it, *He made the Iniquities of us all to meet on him*, or as in the 10th verse, it is said, *He was made an Offering for Sin* (it doth not say, he was guilty of Sin) Now *T. P.* give us a plain Scripture that saith, Jesus Christ by taking, bearing or suffering for Sinners, that he became guilty of Sin, and that he was the greatest of Sinners; and give us a plain Scripture that saith, he hath more Sins to answer for then any particular Sinner; for though I have read of the Sins of *David*, whom I suppose you do believe was an Elect Person, whose Sins were, as in Scripture recorded, Murder and Adultery, yet I do not find by any Testimony of Scripture that Jesus Christ was guilty of *David's* Sins, nor of *Paul's* Sins, who was a Persecutor of him in his Members, nor of *Peter's* Sin, who denyed him. And *T. P.* I query with thee whether thou be an Elect Person or nay? if yea, then tell me,

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whether Jesus Christ be guilty of thy Lies, some of which are hereafter mentioned, viz. *T. P* affirmed, that he had writ the Word [*Imputation*] but the Original being shewed, his Lye appeared, and then he said, *He had writ the Word Imputation, but that* John Vaughton *snatcht the Paper from him*, and this also was and is testified to be a Lye. Now it is also to be considered that *William Farrendine*, one of *T. P*'s. Divines, said, *that it was wicked men that imputed Jesus Christ to be the greatest Sinner in the World*, and that when he had seen what *T. P.* had writ, he said, *he was a Lyar*; for said *William Farrindine, he told me the Word Imputation was in*, and he said, *he would not stand by him for Ten Thousand Worlds*, and *that he should not preach in his Meeting House till he had publickly condemned it*; but notwithstanding his Sayings, and fair Pretences, he hath permitted *T. P.* (who hath affirmed Jesus Christ to be that which he saith, *Wicked men imputed him to be*) to preach in his Meeting-House without numbering him amongst wicked men. So it appears plainly, notwithstanding the specious Pretences of *Tho. Powel*, who calls himself Preacher of the Gospel, he hath not yet left off Lying, nor forging of Lies.

A Copy of those Words, in which *William Farrindine* is made mention of, was shewed unto him, and he confessed unto the Truth thereof, and further said, *T. P. had told many Lyes about this thing*. So I have considered *T. P*'s. Paper, and perused the Scriptures therein cited, and they do not say, nor allow, that Jesus Christ took the Guilt of Sin upon him, nor that he had more to answer for then any particular *Sinner*, or that he was the greatest of Sinners, but give a plain and evident Testimony to the Innocency and Purity of Christ Jesus, and to the Love of the Father manifested in and through him, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all Iniquity, and purifie unto himself a Peculiar People, *Zealous of Good Works*, *Tit.* 2. 14.

And so *T. P.* thou hast not yet cleared thy self of thy Blasphemous Expression or Position, as thou calls it, which was by thee affirmed.

And T. P. notwithstanding thou hast been exhorted to Repentance, yet thou hast gone on, and persisted in preaching, and telling Lyes unto the People, and saying, *The* Quakers *own Jesus Christ only as an Example, and deny him to be an Offering for Sin, or a Propitiation for Sin*; for which Lyes and Slanders, with many more that have and might be mentioned, God's Hand will meet with thee, and if thou Repent not, will certainly appoint thee thy Portion with the Father of Lyes in the Lake that burns with Fire and Brimstone; and therefore this is sent as a Warning unto thee, in the Name of the Lord, and in Good will to thy Soul, that thou no longer make Lyes thy Refuge, and that thou no longer sell nor give thy Lyes and false Conceivings unto the people, lest the Wrath of God break forth upon thee, and there be no Remedy. And thou hast denyed Revelation in these dayes, by which only and alone the Knowledge of God comes to be attained. And thou hast denyed Perfection, and said, *its a Damnable and Erroneous Doctrine*, which manifests thy Ignorance of the Gift of God, for the Gift of God is perfect. and Christ Jesus is the Gift of God, who is pure and holy forever, that is our Testimony, and it shall stand over the Heads of all Opposers and Gainsayers, and is that Stone which certainly shall grind them to Powder, who falls not upon it so as to be broken by it from Sin, which separates man from God, and withholds good things from the Soul. And notwithstanding I had been at thy Meeting, yet these things did remain with me to write unto thee, that thou might be left without Excuse, and that I might clear my Conscience in the Sight of God, who have Good Will in my Heart unto all the Sons and Daughters of men. And thou vain Boaster, who in the Pride of thy Heart, and in the Exaltedness of thy Spirit said, *Thou would throw down our Foundation*; in that also thou art found to be a Lyar, and an Enemy to Christ Jesus; for he, to wit, Christ Jesus, is our Foundation who abides pure and perfect forever, and in the Strength of his Power we were inabled in the midst of thy Meeting, and that before thy Face to bear a Testimony to his Purity, & thou wast then made to confess to the People, *Thou didst not know what*

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to do with us, except thou shouldst Thresh us, and Whip us, and put us into the Stocks; but the Lord our God was with us, and his Power was felt by us, which carried us over all Opposition; and thou couldst not stand that day before it (to wit, God's Power) which remains with us, and is our Preservation; to whose Power be the Glory for evermore.

John Vaughton.

POSTSCRIPT.

AND so dear and tender-hearted People, cease from having any Dependency on Man, whose Breath is in his Nostrils, and come to the Fear of the Lord, which is the Beginning of true Wisdom, and a good Understanding have all they that depart from Iniquity, and such will join no more with T. P. *in those Duties which he calls holy,* * *and yet sayes,* they are Fly-blown with Sin (*and that is a Shame to any People*) *and his best Performances, which he hath said in our Hearing were* Bed ridden; *and we are sure the Spirit of the Lord led not to those Performances, but the Spirit of the wicked One, which is called the Prince of the Power of the Air, which rules in the Hearts of the Children of Disobedience, which moved him at* Farrindine's *Meeting to pray, that they might have no Dependency on Jesus Christ within them; the Word Christ signifies Anointed; & the Apostle said to such as believed in Christ,* You have the Anointing in you, which will teach you all things, which is Truth, and no Lye; *and surely if it be sufficient to teach, as we firmly and truly believe and know, that Christ, the Anointed of God, being able, is worthy to be depended on for Teaching, who hath said,* Without me ye can do nothing: *Much more might be spoken to shew and to make it appear, that* T. P. *is no Gospel-Minister; but we being not willing to inlarge, and also certainly knowing, that those who are faithful to the Manifestation of God's Spirit in themselves, will certainly come to see him to be no Gospel-Minister*

* *Confusion*; that which is holy is not sinful.

Minister, but to be such an one as runs, and God never sent him; for had he been sent of God to preach the Gospel, he would have known Christ to have been revealed in him, and so to have had a Dependency on him, and a reverent Esteem of him, as the Apostles and Ministers of Christ Jesus had, as you may read in the holy Scriptures of Truth; for said the holy Apostle, When it pleased God, who separated me from my Mother's Womb, and called me by his Grace, to reveal his Son IN ME, that I might preach him among the *Heathen*, immediately I conferred not with Flesh and Blood, &c. *Gal.* 1.15,16. *So that it's plain and evident, that the Ground of the Apostle* Paul's *preaching Christ, was from God's revealing him IN HIM: And this is my Testimony (whether you hear or forbear) that none are sent of God to preach Christ Jesus, but such as know him to be revealed IN THEM, and to live IN THEM; for that was the Ground of the Apostle's preaching Christ, even from his knowing of him to be revealed IN HIM; and it's not Flesh and Blood that reveals or gives the Knowledge of Christ Jesus, but the Father, as you may read in* Mat. 16. 16, 17. *where it's left upon Record, that Christ said unto* Peter, *when he had confessed him to be the Son of God,* Flesh and Blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in Heaven; *and the Apostle* Paul *also said unto them that sought a Proof of Christ speaking IN HIM,* Examine your selves, whether you be in the Faith, prove your own selves, know you not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is IN YOU, except you be Reprobates? 2 *Cor.* 13. 5. *And in* Rom. 8.9. *it's said,* If any Man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his: *So People consider these Things, and compare the Prayer of your Priest (who would have no Dependency on Christ within) and the Apostle's Testimony, who said,* Even the Mystery which hath been hid from Ages and Generations, but now is made manifest to his Saints, to whom God would make known what is the Riches of the Glory of this Mystery among the *Gentiles,* which is Christ IN YOU, the Hope of Glory, whom we preach, warning every Man, and teaching every Man in all Wisdom, that we might present every Man perfect in Christ Jesus,

Jesus, whereunto I also labour, striving, according to his working, which worketh IN ME mightily, &c. *Col.* 1.26. to the End: *And so it's plain and evident, that the Apostle laboured to present every Man perfect in Christ Jesus, who also knew Christ to work mightily IN HIM for that End; and surely he depended on him, as he was revealed in him, which made him also to say,* I live, yet not I, but Christ lives IN ME, and the Life that I now live is by Faith in the Son of God, *and this was the Treasure that they of old witnessed in their earthen Vessels; and blessed be God forever, there is a Remnant in this our Day, who have believed in Christ, and have had their Dependency on him, as revealed in them, and do count him their chiefest Treasure, having known the Drawings of the Father, in & through the Son of his Love, who is known and witnessed to make his Abode in and among us, according to his Promise in Dayes past unto his Disciples, when he told them, that* it's expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come, but if I go away, I will send the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and it shall lead you into all Truth, and it shall reprove the World of Sin, of Righteousness and of Judgment; *so that it's plain, that the same Spirit that is the Saints Leader and Comforter is the World's Reprover; and it's also said,* The Reproofs of Instruction is the Way to Life; *so that if ever you come to know Life and Peace to your immortal Souls, you must believe in, and obey, and be subject unto the Spirit of Truth IN YOURSELVES; that doth reprove you for Sin in your own Particulars; for we do testifie in the Name of God that lives forever, that the Spirit of Truth is come INTO the Hearts and Consciences of People, not only to reprove for Sin; but those that do receive it, and believe in it, come to know it to lead them out of Sin, and such come to know the Sanctification of the Spirit, through believing in the Truth; and said Christ Jesus,* I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, and the Light of the World, & there is no Man cometh to the Father, but by me; *who also said unto his Disciples,* He that is with you, shall be IN YOU; *and as Christ said,* We will come (*speaking of his Father*) and make our Abode with you -- He that hath the Son hath Life, and

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he that hath not the Son of God hath not Life.—
John 14.23. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting
1 *Joh.* 5.12. Life, and he that believeth not the Son shall not
John 3. 36. see Life, but the Wrath of God abideth on him;
and Christ said unto his Disciples, I am the Vine, ye are the Branches, he that abideth IN ME, and I IN HIM, the same bringeth forth much Fruit, for without me ye can do nothing; *and to others he also said,* Behold I stand at the Door and knock, if ANY MAN will open unto me, I will come INTO HIM, and sup with him, and he with me; so the Spirit saith Come, and the Bride saith Come, and he that is athirst let him come, and drink of the Waters of Life freely, *that is the Desire of our Souls, who have tasted of the Goodness of the Lord, that you also might come beyond all vain empty Profession to a living Possession, and to have an Earnest of that Inheritance in that Life which will endure, when Time here shall be no more.*

From us who desire the Good and Welfare of all your Souls.

John Vaughton
John Feild.

Let *Thomas Powel* (and all others to whom these Lines may come) know, that our owning and preaching Christ within, as the holy Apostles did, doth not at all gainsay or oppose Christ as he was manifest without in the Dayes of his Flesh; for we have a dear and honourable Esteem unto our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in all his Manifestations, both within and without; and he who professeth and talks of him only or wholly without, denying him any Place within Man, is a Deceiver and an Anti-christ.

THE END.

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